

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process of preparing a tomato product comprising re-combining thick and thin streams and subjecting the re-combined streams at a temperature of at least 150°F to shear of from 150 sec-1 to 1000 sec-1.
2. The process according to claim 1 further comprising subjecting the sheared, re-combined streams to a further shear step of from 150 sec-1 to 1000 sec-1.
3. The process according to claim 1 further comprising subjecting the re-combined streams to heating to a temperature of at least 150°F during the shear step.
4. The process according to claim 3 wherein said re-combined stream are heated to 150°F before being subjected to shear of from 150 sec-1 to 1000 sec-1.
5. The process according to claim 2 further comprising subjecting the sheared, re-combined streams to heating to a temperature of at least 150°F.
6. A process of making a tomato product comprising crushing tomatoes, to form a stream, separating the stream into thick and thin substreams, re-combining the thick and thin substreams into a recombined stream and subjecting said recombined stream to at least 150 sec-1 of shear while said recombined steam is at a temperature of at least 130°F.
7. The process according to claim 6 wherein said recombined stream is subjected to from 150 sec-1 to 1000 sec-1 of shear.

8. The process according to claim 6 wherein said recombined and sheared stream is heated to a temperature of at least 150°F.
9. The process according to claim 6 wherein said recombined and sheared stream is subjected to a further shearing step in which it is subjected to from 150 sec-1 to 1000 sec-1 of shear.
10. The process according to claim 9 wherein prior to the first shearing step, the recombined stream is heated above 130°F.
11. The process according to claim 10 wherein prior to the first shearing step the recombined stream is heated to 145°F or above.